



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/766,208	01/29/2004	Naohiro Furukawa	ASAM.0102	3333
7590 04/06/2007				
Stanley P. Fisher Reed Smith LLP 3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400 Falls Church, VA 20042-4503		EXAMINER NGUYEN, LE V		
		ART UNIT 2174		PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/06/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/766,208	Applicant(s) FURUKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner Le Nguyen	Art Unit 2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/29/04 and 6/6/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 310 of fig. 3; 700 of fig. 7; 800-805 of fig. 8; 902-903 of fig. 9; 1010 of fig. 10; 1100, 1110 and 1111 of fig. 11; 1200 of fig. 12; 1300-1301 of fig. 13; and, 1440-1452 of fig. 14. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 9 is objected to because "main-sending...receives said mail" of the claim appears to contain a typographical error and needs to be changed to: *mail*-sending...receives said mail. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Silverbrook et al. ("Silverbrook").

As per claim 1, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising: a communication device for communication through a network; a calculation unit; and a printer (Abstract; figs. 1-2; col. 3, lines 1-8; *user interacts with a card to include a message using a sensing device and pen adapted to transmit interaction data to a computer system for printing and mailing to a recipient address*), said communication device accepting from said sender a mail-sending request with said input form written in by using said digital pen, said mail-sending request including at least a mail message and pen stroke information that indicates the address of a recipient who receives said mail, said calculation unit determining the destination of said mail-sending request on the basis of said pen stroke information that indicates said address included in said mail-sending request, said printer printing said mail including character strings that indicate said mail message and said determined destination (fig. 1; "NAME" and "ADDR"; fig. 2; *printer 601, pen 1*; fig. 21; *user ID 60, user account 820, payment 821, handwriting model 822, biometric 817-819 and pen 801*; fig. 23; *diagram reflecting pen-related information*; fig. 33; *explanation of how input is captured as digital ink*; fig. 36; *schematic view of text field class*; fig. 42; *history list*; fig. 45; *pen, printer page server and ID server interaction*; fig. 49; *UI page layout icons*; fig. 50; *depicts cards object model, which revolves around a supplier, customer and customized cards*; fig.

Art Unit: 2174

55; *flow diagram for addressing a card*; fig. 59; *personal message field*; fig. 60; *recipient address field*; col. 6, lines 52-67).

As per claim 2, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising: a storage unit storing therein personal user information that includes at least a user name and associated pen ID of said sender who sends said mail, said calculation unit identifying said sender of said mail on the basis of said pen ID sent from said digital pen, said printer printing said identified user name of said sender on said mail (fig. 21; *user account 820, payment card 821*; fig. 22; *balance 814*; fig. 23; *current selection/capture time/page ID*; fig. 45; *transaction ID 933*; fig. 50; *fee 509*; moreover, *sender's personal information such as name, ID 60 and pen ID are stored for identification and billing purposes prior to printing and delivery of the handwritten mail message via the pen to a street address of the recipient*).

As per claim 3, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, wherein said personal user information includes signature information previously registered, said mail-sending request includes a signature of said sender, said calculation unit performs authentication of said signature included in said mail-sending request by using said signature

Art Unit: 2174

information included in said personal user information, and if said signature is authenticated, accepts said mail-sending request so that said printer prints said mail (fig. 21; col. 38, lines 19-34; *biometric signature 818*).

As per claim 4, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising: a storage unit storing therein personal user information that includes destination address information of said recipient of said mail, wherein when said mail-sending request includes information input with an address card which is an digital pen input form associated with said personal user information of said recipient and which said sender has beforehand, said calculation unit searches for said personal user information on the basis of said input information of said address card to decide said destination address (figs. 1-2, 21-23, 33, 36, 42, 45, 48-50, 55, 59-60; *depicts the elements required in order to gather recipient destination address information from card filled out by sender*, col. 6, lines 52-67).

As per claim 5, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising: a storage unit storing therein character recognition knowledge for character recognition based on said written pen stroke information, said calculation unit processing said written

Art Unit: 2174

address information of character strings to recognize said characters on the basis of said character recognition knowledge and to thereby determine said address (col. 6, lines 43-67).

As per claim 6, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, wherein said calculation unit collects the strokes of characters failed to be recognized in said character recognition processing, assigns correct character codes to said character strokes and thus makes use of those failures for additional learning about the function of said character recognition, thereby improving the accuracy of character recognition (col. 18, lines 6-16 and 50-53; col. 21, lines 5-13 and 30-40).

As per claim 7, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising: a storage unit for storing therein personal user information that includes user names, addresses and pen ID information of said sender and said recipient who send and receive said mail, respectively, said printer providing, by printing, a reply block in which reply information can be written by use of said digital pen while printing said mail to be sent from said sender to said recipient, said communication device receiving a reply message that said recipient has filled in said reply block of said sent mail by use of said

Art Unit: 2174

digital pen, said printer printing said reply mail including said reply message (figs. 1-2, 21-23, 33, 36, 42, 45, 48-50, 55, 59-60; *depicts user information including name, address, pen ID, printer for printing wherein reply information can be written and wherein the communication device can receive a reply from another netPage user, col. 6, lines 52-67; wherein a delivery confirmation and reply information written by other NetPage users for are provided within a mail correspondence environment*).

As per claim 8, Silverbrook teaches a mail system in which, when a sender enters information to send a mail using a digital pen, said digital pen detects the position of the tip of said pen from a pattern printed on the surface of a form for input, and as a result to detect the stroke of said pen, said mail system comprising: a storage unit storing therein personal user information that includes user ID information and service usage history information of said sender of said mail or said recipient of said mail, said service usage history information including using point information that is issued on the basis of the use of service by said sender or said recipient, said calculation unit computing a total bill for the mail service using said mail system according to said stored using point information (figs. 23-24, 42 and 50; col. 29, lines 1-29; sections 4.3, 4.4 and 8.3.3; *i.e. balance/bill based on number of transactions/point information*).

Claim 9 is similar in scope to claim 1 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 10 is similar in scope to claim 2 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Art Unit: 2174

Claim 11 is similar in scope to claim 3 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 12 is similar in scope to claim 4 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 13 is similar in scope to claim 5 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 14 is similar in scope to claim 6 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 15 is similar in scope to claim 7 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 16 is similar in scope to claim 8 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wright et al. (US 5,426,594) teach an electronic greeting card store and communication system.

van Rijn (US 6,574,604 B1) teach an Internet message system.

Shiigi (US 6,763,373 B2) teach a method and system for creating and sending handwritten or handdrawn messages.

Tackbary et al. (US 5,555,496) teach a method and apparatus for communicating with a card distribution center for management, selection and delivery of social expression cards.

Friedman et al. (US 6,965,912 B2) teach a method and apparatus for distribution of greeting cards with electronic commerce transaction.

Lockhard et al. (US 2002/0103697 A1) teach methods and apparatus for generating and distribution of surface mail objects.

Kanevsky et al. (US 2001/0012378 A1) teach an Internet assisted mail.

Inquires

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4068**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached at (571) 272-4063.

Art Unit: 2174

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

lvn
Patent Examiner
March 28, 2007

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100